



Unlock your home loan with our special refinancing rate.

HOME NATIONAL BUSINESS LIFESTYLE SPORT POST WEEKEND POST PLUS PROPERTY MULTIMEDIA POST JOBS

Recommend Share 77 g+1 0 Tweet 20 Email

Hootsuite™ networks in one place. Seriously, all of them. 30-day FREE trial >

Fear 'making bloggers, reporters self-censor'

Tue, 11 February 2014 Kevin Ponniah

Cambodian bloggers and journalists often self-censor out of fear that they could face legal or physical threats, the Cambodian Center for Human Rights said in a report on freedom of expression released yesterday.

The policy brief, a summary of six roundtable discussions held over the past two years with bloggers, students, journalists, civil society groups, activists and lawyers, found the state of freedom of expression in Cambodia to be "worryingly fragile".

According to the report, many Cambodian bloggers are reluctant to post commentary online regarding politics, the government or powerful individuals out of fear that they could face arrest or defamation charges.

Journalists, meanwhile, "made it clear that they felt unable to write freely about the [government] or those connected with the [government] due to fear of potential harassment, threats and violence", the report says.

But Kounila Keo, a prominent blogger and media consultant, said there was "some level of misguided apprehension" that a need to self-censor online exists.

"I have been blogging, using Facebook, Twitter and other social media channels for several years and have been vocally critical of government policy and their style of leadership, but [to] date, I have not received any indication that I need to stop," she said.

But Ramana Sorn, the centre's freedom of expression project coordinator, said that the anxiety was warranted.

"There have been many examples in the past of people being targeted for voicing their opinions; harassment of journalists is something that happens very frequently, and most people know that," she said.

While journalists often self-censor, bloggers are less likely to do so given that a proposed cyber-law has yet to be implemented, said media academic Moeun Chhean Nariddh.

"It's unclear whether they will be targeted ... but a good lesson should be learned from the recent prosecution of a Facebook user for [defamatory] comments," he said.

Government spokesman Ek Tha, who went as Ek Madra during his 16 years as a journalist, said that ethical journalists had no reason to be scared.

"They have the right to report the truth on the ground," Tha said.

"They should not be scared; they should not be afraid, because that's what the reader expects when they read the newspaper, watch TV, or listen to radio, they want to hear the facts [and] the truth."

Contact author: Kevin Ponniah

Related articles

- 7 Questions with Kounila Keo Online or out of line?
- TV viewers kept in coup darkness Demand the release of those jailed for shining a light in dark corners
- Media freedom rank drops
- Star bloggers: the top five
- NGOs defend right to aid rally
- Book bound: publishing trap

Latest Video



She who tells the story

A diverse group of five female photographers and filmmakers told their stories at a Ruom Collective event to celebrate International Women's Day.



Fight for Areng continues

Areng Valley inhabitants opposed to the proposed dam construction say their fight will not cease after the deportation of Mother Nature co-founder Alejandro Gonzalez-Davidson.



New Khmer Rouge charges explained

Khmer Rouge tribunal legal communications officer Lars Olsen explains how new charges can be laid at the ECCC without consensus among judges.

ROOMCHANG DENTAL & AESTHETIC HOSPITAL

ESSENTIAL ORAL CARE

- Oral examination
- Panoramic X-Ray
- Bite wing X-Ray
- Treatment plan

\$20 ONLY

Contact us now: 023 211 338

WELCOME TO CAMBODIA

MICHELLE OBAMA

POSTMEDIA 22 INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

AVIS

www.avis.com.kh

0 Comments

Please, login or register to post a comment

1 Rule of a flat stomach:
Cut down a bit of stomach fat every day by using this 1 weird old tip.



SHARP
J-TECH (INVERTER)
For the Future

FASTER COOLING
ENERGY SAVING
FINE CONTROL

For a cooling experience like never before

LOVE.LIFE

1 Rule of a flat stomach

Cut down a bit of stomach fat every day by using this 1 weird old tip. ▶ Tip

Parallels

NEW!
Parallels Desktop® 10 for Mac

RUN WINDOWS ON YOUR MAC

FREE TRIAL

The Phnom Penh Post

Post Media Co Ltd
888 Building F, 8th Floor, Phnom Penh Center
Corner Sothearos & Sihanouk Blvd
Sangkat Tonle Bassac
120101 Phnom Penh
Cambodia

Tel: +855(0) 23 214 3 11-17
Fax: +855(0) 23 214 318

Company

- About us
- Staff list
- Advertising
- Contact
- Privacy policy
- Refund Policy

Supplements

- 7Days
- LIFT
- Real estate
- Siem Reap
- Insider
- Special reports

Sections

- Business
- Lifestyle
- National
- Sport

Facebook Twitter Google +